

403622

memorandum

DATE: 13 April 1979

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: OALGSUBJECT: Request for Insert in the Record, Hearings Before Subcommittee on Energy,
Nuclear Proliferation and Federal Services, Committee on Government Affairs,
6-7 March 1979

TO: Biomedical Advisor

1. Reference is made to your memo for the Director, 6 April 1979, subject:
Plan for Responding to Questions by Senator Glenn.

2. Background.

Cleanup and rehabilitation of Enewetak Atoll is essential before the Enewetak People can be returned to their former homeland from which they were moved in 1947 to permit the Atoll's use as a nuclear weapons proving ground. Division of responsibilities for cleanup and rehabilitation phases of work was confirmed by Office of Management and Budget (OMB) memo dated 18 October 1973. This memo assigned agency responsibilities to: Department of Defense for maintaining ongoing facilities and operations at Enewetak and for cleanup operations; Interior for rehabilitation and the Atomic Energy Commission (Department of Energy) for radiological monitoring and survey. Director, DNA is DoD Project Manager and is coordinating the cleanup effort by Military Service elements and a base contractor thru a combined Joint Task Group Headquarters.

Currently a total of 973 people are at the atoll working on the cleanup of which 657 are military and the remainder civilians. The civilians are primarily engaged in base support operations, construction of community facilities and housing under a TTPI contract and in DOE's Enewetak Radiological Support Project. The southern islands of Enewetak have background levels of radiation comparable to those on the East Coast of the United States and hence no radiation protection measures are required for persons whose activities are confined to the main base camp at Enewetak. Radiation levels in the northern islands are roughly five times greater and entry is controlled and radiation protection measures imposed on those visiting or working on these islands. Additionally, a comprehensive environmental monitoring program is carried out and appropriate levels of individual protection required for all persons working in an environment which is potentially hazardous. Film badges are routinely worn by persons subject to exposure with thermoluminescent dosimeters (TLD) used as backup. Finally a urinalysis is done on all persons leaving the project who have been working in radioactive controlled areas.

3. Results.

Since the beginning of the project in June 1977 to 11 April 1979, there have been a total of 4,498 persons who have worked on controlled islands, including 3,463 military and 1,035 civilians. The average length of time military personnel spend on the project is less than 180 days. The results from 8,552 dosimeter readings,

*(Telecopied Maj Norton, FCZ
For comment - 4/13/79)*

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both film badges and backup thermoluminescent dosimeters, received to date show the average dose received to have been 0.4 millirem and the highest to have been 81 millirem. The highest dose was received by one individual and includes 70 millirem received during one time period (usually a month) and 11 during another. The maximum permissible dose is 1,250 millirem per quarter according to accepted standards; so, it is evident that exposures have been kept to a very low level for those engaged on this project.

THOMAS P. JEFFERS
Director for Logistics

CY FURN:
MAJ Norton, FCZ